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## RÉPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Periodical and newspapers as indicated.

DATA ON HUNGARIAN WAGES, FOOD SHORTAGE,  
AND BUDAPEST CITY BUDGET FOR 1951

WAGE TOTAL RISES DURING 1950 -- Budapest, Szakszervezeti Munka, 1 Jan. 51

During 1950, Hungary's total wages in industry, transport, and commerce increased by 17 percent, while several hundred million forints were added to the purchasing power of the rural population. Increased consumption reflects the rise in earnings, as illustrated by the meat-consumption fig. .as for Budapest:

### Increase in Meat Consumption During the Third Quarter 1950

	Relative to 3rd Qr 48 (in %)	Relative to 4th Qr 49 (in %)
Beef	51.4	0.0
Veal	426.5	52.2
Pork	121.2	101.8

Greater demand for the more expensive veal and pork also indicates increased purchasing power.

For the country as a whole, consumption in 1950, as compared with 1949, increased by the following percentages: sugar, 23.4; bread and pastry, 30; milk, 34.7; and textiles, 30.

Significantly, prices for a number of foods decreased during 1950; as shown by the following comparison of the third quarters of 1949 and 1950:

	<u>3d Qr 49</u>	<u>3d Qr 50</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
	(in forints	per kg)	(in %)
Soup meat	8.40	7.80	7.2
Pork chops	19.30	14.60	24.4
Ham	16.90	12.70	24.9
Lard	19.00	17.00	10.5

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	<u>3d Qr 49</u>	<u>3d Qr 50</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
	<u>(in forints per kg)</u>		<u>(in %)</u>
Fish	10.75	9.75	9.3
Rolls (each)	0.50	0.40	20.0
Kale	1.70	1.35	20.6
Cauliflower	3.90	2.31	40.8
Nuts	34.50	24.00	30.4

Consumer data indicate that the workers spent an average of 44.3 percent of their earnings on food in October 1950, as compared with 52.6 percent in 1938, even according to the distorted statistics of the Horthy regime.

SAYS FOOD SHORTAGE SERIOUS -- Rome, Bolletino Danubiano, 14 Nov 50

Potatoes have disappeared from the markets in Hungary, depriving the population of an indispensable and cheap food. Toward the end of October the Hungarian government announced that purchasing certificates, which had to be paid for in advance, had been issued in the Budapest area. According to the government announcement, potato shipments are expected in the near future and will be distributed in the order of the purchase of the certificates. This means that the earliest purchasers will receive their share of 30 kilograms of potatoes next spring.

Hungary is actually faced with famine. Meat may be bought once a week only and it is necessary to stand in line for it. The situation is the same with respect to sugar, eggs, and vegetables, and the shortage is even worse in other groceries which have disappeared from the stores completely. Shortage in the food supply began as early as midsummer and has become critical since then.

The Hungarian government attributes the food shortage to sabotage by reactionaries. However, everyone in Hungary knows that the harvest was abundant, but part of the crop has been exported to USSR and East Germany.

BUDAPEST 1951 BUDGET UP 36 PERCENT -- Budapest, Nepszava, 16 Dec 50

At its 15 December 1950 meeting, the Budapest City Council passed the 1951 city budget unanimously.

The 1951 budget balances at 790 million forints, as compared with 585 million forints for 1950, showing an increase of 204 million forints, or 36 percent. The largest expenditure item is for welfare and cultural projects. Approximately 34 percent of total budgetary expenditures for 1951, or 272,800,000 forints, were allotted for city development, housing, and other permanent investments; 9,600,000 forints for public and technical schools; 13,400,000 forints for public health and social-political projects; 95,300,000 forints for communal projects; and 117 million forints for new city communications.

During 1950, a series of sewage and other city projects were completed; water and gas mains and power transmission lines were extended; and in the last quarter, 135 new apartments were completed. However, the 1950 investment plan was completed by only 86 percent and required only 79 percent of the budgetary appropriations.

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In the course of 1950, food distribution was improved in Budapest. Per capita meat consumption amounted to 2.59 kilograms per month, as compared with 2.08 kilograms per month a year earlier. Lard and bacon consumption increased from 650 grams to 790 grams, milk consumption from 6.8 liters to 8 liters, and sugar consumption from 1.67 kilograms to 2.60 kilograms per capita per month during the same period. The city employed over 2,000 inspectors to supervise the food distribution during 1950.

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